

# Western Traveller & Intercultural Development

Community Resource & Youth Service Provider



## Annual Report 2017



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## Introduction

Western Traveller and Intercultural Development (WTID) had a busy year once again in 2017. WTID is now the largest community-based, community development organisation in Tuam and it is increasingly being recognised as such.

WTID has noticed that the numbers of people accessing the organisation for assistance and support has once again increased in 2017. Also, staff can see that community members from all walks of life and background, be it Traveller, Settled or Non-Nationals are using the services which are provided at WTID.

WTID works from a community development approach using the core principles of empowerment, participation, collective action, equality and social justice. These are fundamental to the ethos of the organisation. A notable characteristic of WTID is a teamwork approach.

All members of the staff team work in an integrated way on many projects and initiatives, some of which may be additional to their direct roles. This team approach to the work adds value to the work of a small Organisation where difference skills are maximised for the benefit of the community. WTID maintains a focus on the needs of the community as its primary motivation for action. The organisation has developed and cultivated a range of mutually beneficial relationships with a variety of service providers that has ensured the leverage of funding and partnership approaches to work.

This Annual Report sets out the key achievements of the organisation in 2017.

## Review of the year

### Health and wellbeing workshop of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

This subcommittee was set up in to look at county wide initiatives that could be rolled out with an interagency approach. WTID have applied for funding for the Life-Skills Programme for young Traveller women to be rolled out in 2018.

### National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy (NTRIS)

A member of WTID staff sits on the national monitoring committee for this project. There are currently two sub-groups that WTID have representation on. They are Retention of Traveller in Education and Feuding.

### Public Participation network (PPN)

WTID have representation of this committee and keep the wider community informed of nationwide developments. The PPN is a great vehicle for information for community groups throughout the county. A staff member from WTID currently sits on the National PPN committee.

### Public Sector Duty

WTID Board of Management met and agreed that in 2017 we would look at implementing the Public-Sector Duty legalisation in-house and promoting the same in other forums that Travellers are involved in.

### TUS

WTID provides work for a number of participants on Tus Schemes. The organisation applies to Galway Rural Development (GRD) annually for some workers to help with various community projects. GRD has always been very accommodating. Currently we have workers in maintenance and kitchen duties.

### Residents Associations

WTID work with a number of residents' associations in the town of Tuam. During 2017 it was instrumental in working with the council and the Gilmartin Road residents on the future development of the houses and road. WTID continues to work with the Parkmore Residents Association on maintaining the community house and communal areas within the estate.

## Parkmore Allotments

The allotment project is going from strength to strength. The poly-tunnel is in use and will be a huge resource to all the people that use the allotments. Funding for a new poly-tunnel has been applied for from Galway County Council.

## Men's Shed

The shed was opened in 2017 and has been used on a weekly basis. They have made shafts for a barrel top wagon as well as other cultural pieces and plan on refurbishing our barrel top wagon.



## Traveller Health Unit Strategy (THU)

During 2017 WTID representatives were involved with other Traveller projects in the West and with HSE representatives in putting together a three-year strategy for the THU. The Strategy was launched in the third quarter of 2017. The event was a huge success.

## Shared Rearing and Foster Care

WTID currently participates on the Shared Rearing Steering Group with Traveller projects from the region and Tusla. It is prioritising the issue of Traveller children in care, to improve outcomes for Travellers. The Western regional Traveller Health Network (WRTHN) have developed a regional forum to look specifically at the issue of Traveller children in care in our region and what we would hope to achieve through work with Tusla (The Child and Family agency).

## Traveller Interagency group

The county Galway Interagency group had come to the end of its 4-year strategic plan and this announcement by the minister gave new impetus on starting to develop a new plan for the county. WTID along with Galway Traveller Movement and Galway County Council will be to the fore in insuring that Traveller Issues are identified and addressed by the Traveller Interagency Group and look forward to working with all agencies. A term of reference was agreed in 2017 by the sub-group.

## Primary Healthcare Review

The first step of the review that involves consulting with the Community Health Workers (CHW's) has been completed. Interview questions and researchers were identified to carry out the evaluation in relation to the second part of the review. This will consist of visiting and interviewing families on the impact that the Primary Healthcare Programme had on their lives. The final part of the review is the service provider questionnaire that has been agreed and signed off on. This third and final part will commence in early 2018.

## Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task force (WRDATF)

A member of staff from WTID sits on the WRDATF. They keep WTID and all the Traveller projects informed of Training, upcoming events and new initiatives. A three-year strategic plan was developed and launched in 2017. WTID in partnership with and the WRDATF and Learning Curve have organised the delivery of a community addiction course. At present 9 participants are attending.

## Speech and Language

The designated speech and Language service for Travellers is based in Tuam and is in regular contact with WTID and the Childcare service. The steering group meet twice yearly to review and plan.

## Traveller Friendly Services Training and Intercultural Training

Staff from WTID worked with Tusla to deliver training to 22 Social Workers from Galway. The training pack used for this training is currently being reviewed and updated.

## Student placement

WTID provided placement for a number of Students in 2017. The students came from Tuam Community Training Centre, Youth Reach, Health Promotion and Schools.

## Traveller Pride Week

WTID took part in Traveller Pride Week this year. The project celebrated a number of events the included, a concert by the music project for parents, street league soccer and a regional soccer event that was played in Roscommon with all the Traveller Projects in the West. There was a very successful cultural event held in the Parkmore Creche.



**Young soccer players at Traveller Pride Week**



**Young people who obtained awards for community work**

## Primary Health Care



Health as an area of work is one of the most significant for WTID. The overall aim of WTID Primary Healthcare Programme (PHC) is to improve the health status and quality of life for Travellers in Tuam and its environs by identifying the community's specific health requirements and the necessary health service provision. WTID implements one of the most successful PHC Programmes in the country and currently employs seven Community Health Workers (CHWs) on a part time basis. The work in 2017 was yet again influenced by the findings of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010. Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for this year focused on cardiovascular health and mental health.



**Back row:** Caroline Canny (Health Coordinator), Kathleen Ward (CHW), Nora Ward (CHW), Mag Ward (CHW), Bridget Ward (CHW), Sally Sweeny (CHW), Marguerite McDonagh (CE Scheme) and Mike Flynn (CE Scheme). **Front Row:** Mary Ward (CHW), Sean Sweeney (Occupational First Aid Tutor) and Maureen Mullry (CE Scheme). **Absent from photograph:** Bridget McDonagh (Youth Worker).



## Health Promotion

The mainstay of the PHC Programmes work continues to be health promotion, and signposting to relevant service/agencies, be it for health screening, support or intervention. Outreach work in 2017 was conducted about Cervical Check; Breast Check; Child Development and Immunisation; Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme; Healthy Heart; Mental Health Awareness, Asthma and wellness in pregnancy, to name but a few.



Bridget Ward (CHW) and Kathleen Ward (CHW) attending a Western Region Traveller Health Network meeting.

## Traveller History Project

PHC has played an instrumental role in nurturing and building upon the 'West of Ireland –Traveller History Project' during 2017. This project is a partnership between the National Museum of Ireland –Country Life, WTID, MTSG, RIDC and GTM and its focus will be on the unique identity of the Traveller Community and the importance of the community recording its own folklore, history, traditions, language, culture and customs.

The aim of the Traveller History Project is to see collectors' interview members of the Traveller community in Tuam, Mayo, Roscommon and Galway about their memories and experiences of life in both traditional and contemporary Ireland. An archive of material will be created and an exhibition will be held in June 2018.

Over 2017 PHC has been collecting and crafting artifacts; and recording oral history and heritage for the exhibition. A group exploring Traveller culture was facilitated with YouthReach Tuam participates over an eight-week period. A model wagon was built which will be displayed in the exhibition. Children attending Parkmore Childcare Service were recording talking about what it means to them being a Traveller living in Tuam in 2017.



Sean Ward (YouthReach)  
participating in building the model



Julianne McDonagh (Youth Reach) and Ellen McDonagh  
(YouthReach) with Bridget Ward (CHW), you also helped  
build the model wagon

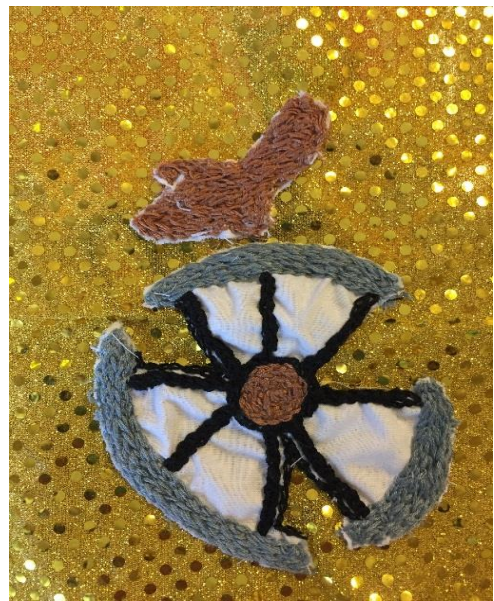




Eddie Sweeney and Martin Sweeney (Parkmore Community Childcare Service) being interviewed by Michael Ward (Youth Worker)



Kathleen Ward (CHW) and Nora ward (CHW) facilitating a workshop with school children focusing on Traveller culture at the National Museum of Ireland- Country Life



Patches made by the Community Health Workers for the quilt being displayed in the National Museum of Ireland- Country Life

## Traveller Ethnicity

On March 1st 2017 the then Taoiseach Enda Kenny announced the formal recognition of Travellers as a distinct ethnic group within the State. It was an historic and momentous day for the Irish Traveller community.



Nora Ward (CHW), Joe Mullin (CE Scheme), Mary Ward (CHW) and Teresa Ward celebrating Traveller Ethnicity recognition.



Bridget Ward (CHW) and Nora Ward (CHW) decorating the May Tree

## Traveller Midwifery and Gynae Working Group

The Traveller Midwifery and Gynae Group continued to meet over 2017. The purpose of the group is to build links, share resources and information to improve the health outcomes for Traveller mothers and their babies using the Maternity Services at UHG.

## Traveller Speech and Language Working Group

In 2017 this group worked in partnership with Galway Rural Development to deliver Elklan Training to seven Childcare Workers of Parkmore Community Childcare Service. Elklan was an accredited course. The training had proved to be extremely beneficial in helping staff to feel more confident in working with children with speech, language and communication needs.

## Information Sessions

PHC staff attended information sessions in 2017 including: “Survival Guide for Young Mothers” by the Teen Parent Programme, Suicide Liaison Bereavement Officer Pieta House, The Nurture Programme- Infant Health and Wellbeing, Meningitis Foundation and Alcohol and Pregnancy WRDATF.



Sally Sweeney practising CPR

## Community Education Programme

PHC worked in partnership with Tuam & District Mental Health Association to deliver four sessions to two different groups of men on their CE Scheme. Topics discussed included: Understanding Blood Pressure, Sleep Apnoea, Prostate Awareness and Food Labelling/Portion Size. Each participant's Blood Pressure, Height, Weight, BMI and waist circumference was measured and they were signposted to their GP as required. Feedback from these sessions was very positive.

## Youth Work



WTID, Brú Bhríde Youth Project has had a very successful and exciting year during 2017. Two assistant youth workers were taken on from a CE scheme. They have been provided with training with the support of Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board. One of the new team leaders has commenced a diploma in community youth work, with NUI Galway. The youth work team decided in 2017 to doing quality and focused youth work activities.

The Collages in Tuam have also gave some funding for the young people in school support project. Budgets were tight but programs ran to schedule.

### The National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF)

We are on year two, of the National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF) and our new leaders are adapting to the NQSF structures. We have received some funding during the year from Galway Co Co, and through Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) we have managed to run programmes.

### Youth Education Initiative

The projected targeted 10 boys from McHale collage, Tuam. The concept was to keep and encourage these young people to remain on in education, and complete their Junior cert. The program was supported by McHale collage and the school completion officer, as well as Marie Higgins the in-school support Teacher.

The feedback we received from parents, Teachers, and the young people was quite positive. They enjoyed the activities and felt that such programs helped them with the in-school challenges.

## Afterschool's Programme, Parkmore

There are 3 youth leaders assigned to a programme of afterschool's activities which takes place 3 afternoons a week. The activities are provided for the young people attending aged 9 – 13 yrs., this includes astro turf soccer, outdoor games, and art and cultural programmes.

### Activities include

**Mondays:** Afterschool's & Creative Art Group, Parkmore Community House 3.15pm – 4.30pm

**Tuesday:** Healthy Eating & Cookery Group, Parkmore Community House 3.15pm – 4.30pm

**Wed:** Being Active: Sports & Fitness group, St. Pat's Gym

Girls 9 – 13yrs: 3.30 – 4.30pm

Boys 9 – 13yrs: 4.30 – 5.30pm



Liz and the Healthy Eating & Cookery Group







**Young boys soccer & sports group, St. Pats**



**"Boxercise" group with Jonathan and Christy**

## St Christopher's Youth Club



Boxing activities, physical exercise and wellbeing.

Boys 9yrs-18yrs+

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 7pm – 9pm

Sunday: 12noon – 3pm



The young people have been provided with an opportunity to compete in the Irish, Connaught, and, County competitions. They also have the choice just to train if that's what they decide is best for them.

## Life skills Group

This project is a new initiative between the PHC program, WTID community development worker, Tusla, and of course WTID youth project. The PHC brought the group together with Tusla supporting the group financially and constructively.

The youth project proved support and encouraged young people to attend the group. The target group were aged 16-20 and an average of 18 young girls attended the program.



**Caroline, Eammon and Martin at the Petersburg Life Skill's outing**



**Life skill's group outing at Petersburg**

## St Christopher's Youth club

Ran for a term during 2017, while there was a need for such a youth project, without adequate Leaders it was decided to put the safety and wellbeing of the young people first. Young people in this group worked on restoration of the wagon project. They striped of the cover and took away the timbers. Galway Co Co and Rapid supported this program. This project won't be finished until April 2018.



## Music Project - Independent

Girls & boys 8-15yrs

Monday – Friday 4pm – 7pm

Caters for 35 young people. The Music project has become independent over the past 3 years. The tutor is solely responsible for advertising and the day to day running for the project.

## Summer Programs

Summer Programmes ran through out June and July last year. There were two weeks of summer camp activities, which included, cookery groups, outdoor games and adventure trips to Castle Hackett and the Land of Giants, and sporting activities at Tuam Celtic.

The older youth groups were introduced to traditional cookery skills, a farrier demonstration, along with a presentation of achievements to young people and leaders.

The teenager's events took place at the allotment's and the play area Parkmore Tuam



Trip to Castle Hackett



Farrier demonstration



Summer Camp fun and games

## Traveller Pride Week

A number of young people took part in our Traveller Pride Week event in June held in Parkmore Estate. The Traveller pride event celebrated Traveller culture and also recognised and acknowledged the contribution of many of our young members to our youth project. It was a huge success over two days.



**Martin and Kathleen presenting the awards for contribution to the community**



**U12 – U14 medal winners**



**Having a well earn tea-break**

## Tuam Community Childcare Centre



The service is community based and is currently owned and managed by WTID. The Management Committee of WTID is responsible for the overall operation of the childcare service, ensuring that the service operates in a manner that is compliant with statutory regulations and with the ethos of the childcare service and WTID.

Tuam Community Childcare Centre is dedicated to provide an enriching and challenging educational environment, where each child is encouraged to grow to his or her fullest potential academically, socially and emotionally. We strive to provide a welcoming, calm and caring environment where children are able to play and learn at their own pace, making discoveries and choices for themselves along the way. Our ultimate aim is to provide a childcare programme, which promotes optimal development for each child, supports parents, upholds best practices of early childhood care and education and promote collaborations that help all children realise their potential.

To achieve this WTID works in partnership with parents, staff and children, by providing a secure learning environment, which enable children to be happy, confident and independent and to have positive and productive experiences during their time with the service.

## Description of Service

The service is located in Parkmore Estate, Tuam, and caters for children between the ages of 1 year to 12 years. The service operates from Monday to Friday from 9a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The service is affiliated to the Galway City and County Childcare Committee, is a member of Early Childhood Ireland and is also notified to the Health Service Executive and inspected by them. The service follows the principles of Siolta and Aistear.

Support services include the Early Intervention Team, Speech & Language Therapist, Psychologist, Public Health Nurse, Family Support Workers and the Pre-School Liaison worker. I would also work closely with the Presentation Primary School and the Mercy Primary School in meeting with their Home School Liaison Teachers regarding enrolling children who are eligible to attend primary schools.

## Facilities:

- Purpose built Childcare Centre
- Open 5 days a week
- ECCE Scheme – 38 weeks
- CCS Scheme – 46 weeks
- Secure entrance
- Outdoor play areas with hard and soft surfaces
- Full-time/part-time/sessional service
- Spacious rooms
- Fully equipped Pre-school rooms
- Afterschool care
- Bus collection and drop off service for children attending both morning and afternoon programmes
- Own Allotments and access to Tuam Community Allotments



## Objectives

- To provide a safe, secure, stimulating environment, which can embrace all children and values their race, language, gender, age, disability, culture, class and religion.
- To value all children as individuals and appreciate their uniqueness.
- To value parents and carers as the primary educators of the child.
- To ensure that all staff receives appropriate training and maintain high levels of practice.
- To develop practice that values the wider community as a means of adding to the richness of programmes.



## Afterschool's Programme

The Afterschool's Programme caters for children between the ages of 5 years to 12 years. The service operates from Monday to Friday, from 2.40 p.m. to 6 p.m. A pickup service from all primary schools in Tuam town is provided on a daily basis with a drop home service between 5pm and 6pm.

The service provides supervised homework and planned activities to encourage and develop self-esteem, sociability, friendship and co-operation with others.

Various programs take place both within and outside of the center on a weekly basis with all afterschool children. We ensure that children are continuously trying out new activities such as soccer, gymnastics, boxing, kickboxing, baking and art.



## Pre-school Services Training

Six Childcare workers obtained their certificate in HACCAP. Four Staff members including management completed Elklan Speech & Language training. Three staff completed First Aid training. One staff member obtained their certificate in Children First training. Six of our Childcare workers received pediatric training. One of our Childcare Workers is currently completing training in LINC (Leadership for Inclusion). One Childcare worker is undergoing a FETAC Level course. Two staff members took part in Equality and Diversity Training. Finally, five staff members completed Aistear & Siolta training.

## Aistear & Siolta

The Aistear & Siolta curriculum is followed and practiced on a daily basis within our morning service. This curriculum is very innovative and impressive, with children benefiting from its contents continuously. This year has brought along advanced supports for the Aistear & Siolta programme, with an early year's specialist working closely with our childcare management and workers to develop and implement quality development goals and actions, prioritizing the needs and interests of children within the service. This has been a huge success to date and we look forward to continuing and improving our work within this programme throughout the year ahead.

## ECCE Expansion

Thanks to yet another major emphasis being placed on the free preschool scheme known as the ECCE, this year children have been given the opportunity to avail of two years free pre – school services.

Due to the successful outcome of our outreach programme tool to raise awareness and inform parents of the ECCE programme and its criteria last year, we revisited this approach again this year. Our service was successful this year on our application for both Early Years Capital funding and School Age Capital funding. Works were completed on our outdoor space to provide all children attending our service with an enriched experience of learning including play. The capital grant has provided us with the opportunity to improve and grow our service, exceeding our expectations for 2017.



## Senior Citizen Christmas Party

This year the party was held at the Corralea Court Hotel on 14th December and was a remarkable success with an appetizing lunch followed by music and dancing.

The staff and management of the Corralea Court could not have been more friendly, helpful or accommodating of this year's party.

This event could not have happened without the good will of the businesses of Tuam and hard work and commitment of the staff of WTID the many other volunteers that helped with fundraising efforts.

Without these kind and supportive people this event could not go ahead each year.

Congratulations to winners of our raffle

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – €50 Hamper - Mary Murphy

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Bottle of Bandy - Vincent Watts

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Bottle of Whiskey - A Connolly



## Traveller Tracing



Traveller Tracing is now into its fourth year. Over the past year, we have been working on booklets of family trees for various family. The booklet gives a more in-depth family history.

Once again, we were involved in Traveller Pride Week, with Mary Moriarty giving a talk about Traveller history at both Western Traveller and Roscommon Traveller Group events.



Mary at the camp fire

Mary was invited to submit a 100-work piece about Tinsmiths to National Treasures. National Treasures, is a campaign to crowd-source everyday objects that explore the history of the island of Ireland over the past 100 years. It is run in association with RTÉ, the National Museum of Ireland and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

Mary will also be exhibiting an object, which will be among approximately 60 objects that will be included in the exhibition will be taking place for approximately 6 weeks from next April (2018).

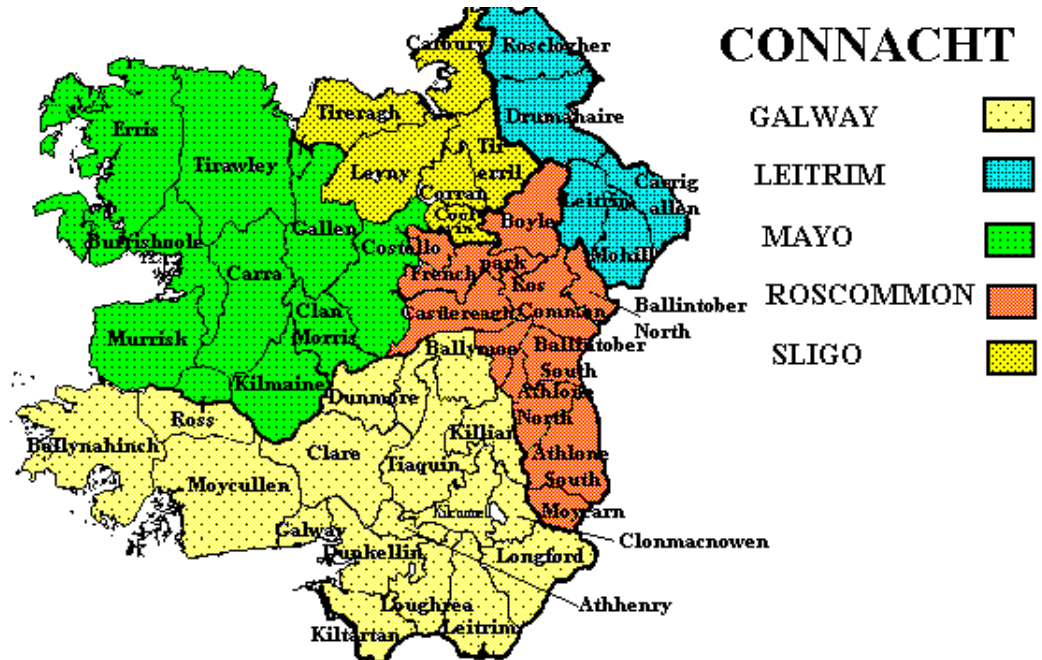
Mary article can be viewed a [www.nationaltreasures.ie](http://www.nationaltreasures.ie) – Search Tinsmith



During the coming year Traveller Tracing hopes to continue its work, and to produce a more booklets showing the family history from the 1800's to present day.

We are hoping to start work on producing a map of the area around Tuam showing the old halting sites.

We feel that this project is very important from both a historical and social aspect.



The Following Organisation are based in our premises: -

|  |                                  |                               |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Citizen Information Services                                 | Tuesday – Friday                 | 11am – 4pm                    |
| Seetec Employment Services                                   | Tuesday – Friday                 | 9am – 5pm                     |
| Narcotics Anonymous  | Monday and Friday                | 8pm – 9pm                     |
| Alcoholics Anonymous   | Mon/Wed/Fri                      | 1pm – 2pm                     |
| Al-Anon  | Thursday                         | 7:30pm – 9:30pm               |
| (CODA)   | Wednesday                        | 8:15pm – 9:15pm               |
| Co-Dependents Anonymous Galway Group                         |                                  |                               |
| Being Well Group   | Monday – Saturday<br>Sunday      | 9:15am – 10:30pm<br>6pm – 7pm |
| Krava Mega Kick Boxing Club                                  | Monday                           | 4:30pm – 6:30pm               |
| St Christopher’s Boxing Club<br>(Runs from Oct – May)        | Mon/Wed/Fri<br>Sunday            | 7pm -9pm<br>12 noon – 3pm     |
| St John’s Club<br>(September - June)                         | Tuesday and Thursday<br>Saturday | 7pm - 9pm<br>5pm – 7pm        |
| Banjo & Mandolin<br>(School term times)                      | Thursday and Friday              | 4pm – 8pm                     |
| Guitar & music lessons (Harmony Hall)<br>(School term times) | Monday – Friday                  | 4pm – 7pm                     |
| I.C.A.<br>(September – June)                                 | Tuesday                          | 7pm – 9pm                     |

